

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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### **JUROR COMPENSATION TO GO UP OCTOBER 1; RAISE IS FIRST SINCE 1968**

LANSING, MI, September 29, 2003 – Legislation that will raise juror fees for the first time since 1968 will go into effect on October 1.

Under Public Act (PA) 739 of 2002, jurors will receive not less than \$25 per day and \$12.50 per half day for the first day of jury service. For each subsequent day, jurors will receive not less than \$40 per day and \$20 per half day, the statute provides.

Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan noted that, under prior law, jurors receive a minimum of \$15 per day and \$7.50 per half day for each day of attendance at court.

“This level of compensation, which has been in place since 1968, is often cited by jurors as a hardship. For many jurors, the compensation they receive does not even cover the cost of parking,” the Chief Justice said. “This more realistic level of compensation will, the Court hopes, reduce hardships and inconvenience for Michigan jurors.”

The Chief Justice added, “I would also like to take this opportunity to say how much the Court values and depends upon Michigan citizens’ jury service. The constitutional right to trial by jury would be meaningless if the people of Michigan did not take the time – in many cases, at considerable inconvenience – to serve as jurors. Jurors are indeed at the heart of our justice system.”

A companion bill, PA 740 of 2002, created the Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund, which reimburses trial court funding units for the increase in juror compensation. Under PA 605 of 2002, a party demanding trial in circuit court pays a fee of \$85, an increase over the prior \$60 jury demand fee. The \$25 difference is deposited in the Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund. Similarly, \$10 of the \$50 jury demand fee in district court is also deposited in the Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund. Some proceeds from fees for drivers license suspensions and reinstatements will also go toward the Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund.

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